



WILLIAM T. PECORA AWARD

John R. Jensen

For outstanding and sustained international leadership in advancing geographical remote sensing and remote sensing education

Professor John R. Jensen, Distinguished Professor of Geography at the University of South Carolina (USC), has made lasting contributions to the field of remote sensing in the geographical sciences through his research, publications, leadership, teaching, and mentoring of students. Breadth is the hallmark of Dr. Jensen's strong 30-year record of sustained research contributions. Dr. Jensen's research addresses two primary themes: Remote sensing of phenomenology and image processing. Dr. Jensen has conducted research in many regions of the electromagnetic spectrum and has studied virtually all types of surface features, including grassland and forest vegetation, wetlands, urban areas, temperature fields, oil spills, and hurricane damage. He has developed a wide variety of algorithms for identifying land cover features, detecting land-cover change, and mapping biophysical components of the environment. Dr. Jensen has recently focused on technically challenging applications needed by industry, government agencies, and developing countries. He is also regarded as one of the most prolific contributors to the remote sensing literature.

Dr. Jensen has been a strong advocate for remote sensing on national and international scales. He led the establishment of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group of the Association of American Geographers in 1981, and he served as President of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing from 1995 to 1996. In addition, he has served on five National Research Council (NRC) studies and chaired the NRC committee that developed the report "Down to Earth: Geographic Information for Sustainable Development in Africa" for the U.S. Department of State. Secretary of State Colin Powell presented the findings of this study at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002.

Dr. Jensen is well known as the author of two heavily used remote-sensing textbooks, but perhaps his greatest accomplishment is the education of a generation of remote-sensing scientists. He has directed the study of 26 Ph.D. and 57 Masters students during his 24-year career at USC. Dr. Jensen's graduates include 10 students who hold academic appointments, Chief Executive Officers of two companies, and prominent remote sensing scientists at many Federal agencies and other organizations.

In recognition of these accomplishments, the Department of the Interior and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration take great pleasure in presenting the 2006 William T. Pecora Award to Professor John R. Jensen.


Secretary
Department of the Interior


Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration